

Message Text

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FOR AMBASSADOR LAINGEN FROM WIGGINS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, MT

SUBJECT: PLANNED ARRIVAL DATE

REF: LAINGEN-WIGGINS LETTER OF NOVEMBER 10, 1976

1. NOVEMBER 23 ISSUE OF MALTA NEWS (GENERAL WORKERS UNION PAPER) HAS FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY AP FROM ODIN, MINNESOTA AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: NO PROCRASTINATION FOR NEW US ENVOY TO MALTA

"AFTER 27 YEARS OF FOREIGN SERVICE WORK, THE NEW US AMBASSADOR TO MALTA FEELS HIS "TRANSIENT" FAMILY HAS LOST ITS ROOTS IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT HE'S HAPPILY PREPARING NOW TO MOVE TO MALTA.

"L. BRUCE LAINGEN, AN ODIN NATIVE, WAS APPOINTED TO THE AMBASSADORSHIP BY PRESIDENT FORD LAST WEEK.

"LAINGEN IS CURRENTLY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S EUROPEAN AFFAIRS BUREAU IN WASHINGTON. THE MOVE TO MALTA IS THE FAMILY'S FOURTH IN THE LAST 10 YEARS. HE HAS HAD PREVIOUS SERVICE IN IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN AND GERMANY.

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"HIS APPOINTMENT REQUIRES US SENATE CONFIRMATION, BUT LAINGEN IS PLANNING TO MOVE TO HIS POST IN MALTA IN JANUARY ALONG WITH HIS WIFE AND TWO OF THEIR THREE CHILDREN.

"WHEN A NEW PRESIDENT IS SWORN IN", LAINGEN SAID, "ALL AMBASSADORS SUBMIT THEIR RESIGNATIONS, JUST TO GIVE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION A CHANCE TO REPLACE PEOPLE. MALTA IS NOT A VERY CONTROVERSIAL COUNTRY, SO THE PRESIDENT WILL PROBABLY CHOOSE TO REJECT THE RESIGNATION."

" IN AN INTERVIEW ON SATURDAY DURING A VISIT TO ODIN, LAINGEN SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE UNDER THE SECRETARIES OF STATE OF SIX ADMINISTRATIONS, AND HENRY KISSINGER IS BY FAR "THE STERNEST TASKMASTER" OF THE GROUP.

"MR. KISSINGER HAS BEEN GOOD FOR THE FOREIGN SERVICE. HE HAS DEMANDED EXCELLENCE AND HAS SCHOOLED THE DEPARTMENT TO BE MORE PRECISE AND TO WORK HARDER. END TEXT.

2. IN VIEW OF THIS ARTICLE, I WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING YOUR APPROXIMATE DATE OF ARRIVAL IN JANUARY, SO THAT I CAN INFORM GOM OFFICIALLY OF YOUR PLANS. WIGGINS

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